

The Local Roads and Streets Council

Partnering to improve the quality of Wisconsin's local roads and streets...

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Who Are We?

The Local Roads and Streets Council (LRSC) serves as an advisory committee to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) on issues impacting the local road network in Wisconsin. The LRSC is comprised of representatives from all levels of local government, including the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations along with staff support provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The governmental associations nominate members to sit on the LRSC and the WisDOT Secretary makes final appointments. For a current listing of LRSC members, please refer to the brochure insert or go to the LRSC Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc/members.htm>

LRSC History and Formation

The WisDOT Secretary created the LRSC in 1995 as an advisory body of local officials to address the continuing impact that changes in federal/state policies and funding has on local transportation. This unique cross-section of transportation stakeholders allows for input from a wide range of viewpoints and perspectives, which is an asset in developing policy and direction for the LRSC. The LRSC was formed to foster a cooperative state/local partnership on local transportation issues and to ensure the continued efficient use of public funds. LRSC members work together on issues of mutual concern and provide unified recommendations to WisDOT.

The LRSC concentrates its efforts within four main areas as charged by the WisDOT Secretary:

- *Enhance and facilitate* communication among various state associations and WisDOT;
- *Review* policies that affect local roads and streets, with special emphasis on cost and containment;
- *Investigate* the impact of federal legislation on state policies; and
- *Evaluate* the needs and methods for collecting local road network data and develop policy initiatives based on that data.

The Importance of the Local Roads and Streets Council

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi recognize the strong role of the state's local roads and streets to economic growth and safe, efficient travel. Of the approximately 112,000 miles of streets, roads and highways in Wisconsin, roads under local jurisdiction make up about 90% of that mileage. These local roadways serve as the "last leg of the trip" for most commerce and residents. Clearly, Wisconsin's economy is dependent upon a strong system of major highways, along with a well-maintained and efficient system of local roads. Together, they create a vital network providing for the circulation of our economy's lifeblood. The role of the LRSC is to provide recommendations to enhance this high quality, cost-effective local roads system. In addition, the LRSC serves as a forum through which strong local and state transportation policy partnerships are built, and provides an arena for local governments to discuss issues ranging from storm water management to pavement condition ratings. Governor Doyle is supporting these efforts through his "Grow Wisconsin" plan that calls for continued investments in local roads and improvements to the local road system.

**Please
see
next
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for
more
about
the
LRSC.**



LRSC Accomplishments

To maximize the input of all LRSC stakeholders, Council members currently divide the workload among five committees: Executive; Local Transportation Funding; Regulatory, Environmental, and Legislative (REAL); Infrastructure Management (I/M); and Education and Communication (E & C).

Each group's committee is comprised of at least one member from each local government association. In addition, membership sometimes expands beyond LRSC members to include outside stakeholders or non-Council local government representatives with special skills or expertise that can contribute to the group's efforts.

Highlights of LRSC work group accomplishments include:

- Design and development of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads or WISLR (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/wislr/index.htm>), a comprehensive and sophisticated local roads database and mapping system, as well as education and training for local officials on WISLR.
- Education and training on how to use PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) and PASERWARE (the software used in conjunction with PASER).
- Groundbreaking initiative to streamline the environmental review and permitting process for local road and street projects. The effort brought together representatives from the LRSC, WisDOT, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local stakeholders. The initiative culminated in recommendations to create a single DNR point of contact for each trans-



portation project along with enhancing environmental training opportunities for local transportation officials.

- Creation of the Delivery Cost Study Group Report in 2000 (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc/reports.htm>), which provided specific recommendations for project delivery to be enhanced through policy streamlining and the inclusion of additional transportation stakeholders in the project delivery process.
- Recommendations to enhance cost savings, such as standardizing specifications for local government projects, grouping or bundling projects to take advantage of economies of scale, and improving the timing of bids to increase competitiveness and contractor scheduling. This group of recommendations provided the foundation for the creation of the WisDOT Secretary's Committee on Local Program Streamlining (SCOLPS).
- Development of a General Transportation Aids (GTA) Study Report in 1998 (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc/reports.htm>) that clarifies GTA program goals and determines whether those goals are being met, recommends a change in the GTA formula in order to improve overall cost containment, and suggests changes in the minimum municipal cushion in order to assist communities in reducing or eliminating large fluctuations in payment.
- On-going education and outreach to local government and transportation officials with regard to a wide range of local policy and implementation issues. Outreach efforts have included development and implementation of an LRSC Web site (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc/index.htm>), expansion of information provided on the WisDOT "Programs for Local Government" Web site (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/index.htm>) and quarterly LRSC newsletters that are distributed to over 1,200 local and state officials (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc/newsletters.htm>).



Future Avenues

The LRSC is committed to continuing its efforts to assist in the preservation, maintenance and improvement of existing local roads policies and processes in several ways:

- Help provide a better level of understanding among state and local officials of the value of the local transportation system to economic development and critical day-to-day activities.
- Reduce adverse environmental impacts of local road and street projects by streamlining the process to focus on positive outcomes and reducing paperwork and lowering costs.
- Utilize pavement condition data stored in the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) to enhance the local government decision-making process and to guide future directions for state and local investment in local roads.
- Provide information for consideration during the development of future state biennial budgets.

